

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

I vote and I care very much about protecting animals, domestic and wildlife, in Connecticut. Please consider my position on the following bills:

1. SB 522 OPPOSE: Bear Hunting, which I strongly oppose, will not solve the occasional nuisance problem but will lead to serious situations from frenzied overhunting as evidenced in other states. Public education in removing garbage and outdoor pet food as well as non-confrontation strategies would be a much better approach. Please consider the input of professional wildlife management experts in terms of bear management which excludes hunting as an tool.
2. HB 5499 OPPOSE: Sunday hunting expansion. The use of parks and recreation areas by non-hunters is already a threatening situation for those of us who want to enjoy a walk in the woods. I very much oppose enlarging this to include additional types of guns. Most of the public using recreation areas are not hunters and the continued expansion of hunting activities by a very small group limits the outdoors enjoyment for many more Connecticut residents.
3. HB 6335 SUPPORT: Ivory sales ban. I was shocked to learn the CT did not already ban the sale of ivory and rhino horn. This needs to happen to support conservation efforts worldwide. The federal ban is insufficient and all loopholes that encourage this trade should be eliminated.
4. SB 942 SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS. Anti-trophy hunting. Trophy hunting is a terrible activity and CT should be doing everything possible to prevent it. The amendments as offered add clarity to the bill. Animal experts have clearly explained the many serious reasons for preventing trophy hunting and I can think of no acceptable reason that the State of CT should not pass this overwhelmingly.
5. HB 6334 SUPPORT: Registration for brick-and-mortar animal shelters. This bill would provide the state with information on the location to permit inspections and create regulations that define minimum care standards. Without this legislation, possible cruelty situations remain unknown until they are much more extensive and expensive to combat.
6. HB 5615 SUPPORT. Please bring this to a public hearing and allow local control of whether to ban trapping. Trapping is an ineffective animal control tool while causing terrible damage to pets and non-target wildlife. Towns/cities that want to ban trapping should be able to so. Once again, the input from wildlife management experts and public education would be a more desirable approach.

Thank you for considering my opinions. I very much look forward to your actions on these bills. Connecticut should be a leader in the protection and management of both domestic and wild creatures.

Linda A Giers  
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